

Quarterly Issues Programs List

Townsquare Media Faribault-Owatonna

Stations: KRFO-AM, KRFO-FM, and KQCL-FM

July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023

SECTION I. Issues

- A) **Mental Health:** Even prior to the pandemic mental health issues, and specifically suicide, were increasingly in the spotlight and causing concern in Minnesota. Now we are seeing the stresses of the pandemic causing an elevated rate of mental health issues and suicide across the state.
- B) **Hunger:** Inflation has been difficult on many families in southern Minnesota, and keeping everyone fed is tougher on some than others. From stressed food banks, to summer meal programs – Minnesotans have an increased need for assistance.
- C) **Education:** As children across southern Minnesota enjoy summer break, many issues remain in the education spotlight. Safety at school, the quality of education, the affordability of college, and more remain top of mind for Minnesota families.
- D) **Public Safety:** Many Minnesotans view the state as being less safe that it was just a few years ago. From law enforcement staffing issues, to an increase in violent crime – keeping themselves, their children, and families safe is always on the mind of Minnesotans
- E) **Healthcare:** Keeping their families healthy is likely the top priority of southern Minnesota parents and families. From challenges at long-term care facilities, to the health of Minnesota kids, healthcare is always a top point of concern.

SECTION II – Responsive Programs

MINNESOTA MATTERS is a weekly locally produced public affairs program that discusses matters of importance to Minnesotans. Minnesota Matters runs every Sunday morning on **KRFO-AM, KRFO-FM** and **KQCL-FM** for 30 minutes from 6:00 am to 6:30 am.

7/9/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Public Safety, Hunger, Census, Policing

Program Description: Discussed during the program, the U.S. Justice Department report on the Minneapolis Police Department, the summer meals program for Minnesota students, Minnesota Asian Pacific census concerns, and look the University of Minnesota student broadcaster that won a prestigious award.

7/16/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Hunger, Employment

Program Description: During the program there was a continued discussion of the summer meals program for Minnesota students, a conversation about 'quiet hiring' in Minnesota and what it means, a look at the new Minnesota State Fair foods for 2023, and preview of the University of Minnesota men's hockey team's upcoming season.

7/23/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Public Safety, Homelessness, Healthcare, Mental Health

Program Description: During the program the hosts discussed a new report that shows fewer Minnesotans released from incarceration are becoming homeless, a coalition of Minnesota activists are calling for peace negotiations to stop the war in Ukraine, telehealth services continue to grow across the state, and a new report on the state of mental healthcare.

7/30/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: State Government, Marijuana Legalization, Youth Sports

Program Description: During the program the hosts discuss the effects of legalizing the recreational use of marijuana in Minnesota, the long road that it took to make that legalization happen, and the continued shortage of sports officials in the state and across the country,

8/6/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Marijuana Legalization, Public Safety, Policing

Program Description: This week's program included discussions on the fact that cannabis is now legal in Minnesota, the statewide repercussions following the shooting of a black motorist by the Minnesota State Patrol, and a look at the soon-to-begin college football season.

8/13/23

Issue(s) Discussed: Healthcare, Environment, Business, Politics

Program Description: The program discussed racial and ethnic disparities prevailed in vaccination rates during the COVID-19 pandemic in Minnesota and nationally, a proposed federal rule that would allow Minnesota retailers to sell E-15 gasoline during the summer, the Minnesota State Fair, and the role it plays in politics.

8/20/23

Issue(s) Discussed: Hunger, Healthcare, Environment

Program Description: This week's program included a discussion regarding food shelf use remaining high in the state, Minnesota allowing trans and non-binary individual individuals to donate plasma, and Minnesota's poor air quality this summer due to Canadian wildfires.

8/27/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Healthcare, Cancer, Environment, Education, Politics

Program Description: This week on the program discussions what Minnesotans need to know about lung cancer, what's behind the decline in moose population in northeast Minnesota, and significant changes on Minnesota's education front as the new school year approaches that are reverberating on the state's political scene.

9/3/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Marijuana Legalization, Jobs, Policing, Public Safety, Education

Program Description: This week on the program there were discussions on how Minnesota's legal cannabis industry is expected to create thousands of jobs, the final days of the Minnesota State Fair, a check-in with University of Minnesota Athletic Director Mark Coyle, and Minnesota's controversial new legislation that is keeping school resource officers out of many districts,

9/10/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Money, Education

Program Description: During the program the hosts discussed saving strategies for Minnesotans with kids looking to go to college, biking for a cause, and the Minnesota Attorney General's investigation of 52 student loan debt relief companies operating in the state.

9/17/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Safety, Marijuana Legalization, Cyber-Security, Politics

Program Description: During the program the hosts covered rail safety week in Minnesota and in the U.S, regulating Minnesota's new recreational cannabis industry, state cyber-security, and efforts to bar Donald Trump from the states presidential ballot in 2024.

9/24/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Public Safety, Environment, Public Health

Program Description: This week's program focuses keeping the state's first responders and their families safe, controlling tree disease in Minnesota, and the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Health have received a \$17.5 million grant to help create a national network for responding to public health outbreaks.